

NSI COUNTDOWN: 30 days, See tips, Page 16

Lethal Weapon



Photo by Senior Airman Joe Lacdan

Staff Sgt. Nicholas Budenz, 509th Security Forces Squadron, explains to Airman Travis Wimberly, 509th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron, the functions of an M-4 Carbine at the base exchange parking lot. The weapons display was part of the 509th SFS commemoration of Police Week. The event also included a military working dog demonstration by military dog handler Staff Sgt. Jerico McInnis, 509th SFS, and his dog, Charlie.

News in brief

Road closure scheduled

Summit Drive will be closed east of housing units 804 and 806 Monday-May 27 for sewer line repair. For more details, call Mike Roberts at 687-4229.

Traffic light to be installed

To improve traffic flow through the Spirit Boulevard and Vandenberg Avenue intersection, Whiteman is installing its first traffic light. This project will

require local road closures and detours. Advance notice of closures will be provided as warranted.

Palace Front briefing scheduled

The Palace Front briefing will explain opportunities for military members leaving active duty. The briefing, takes place at 10 a.m. June 5 at 930 Arnold Avenue in the Reserve Recruiting Conference Room. For more details, call Master Sgt. TeNeuss Land at 687-4017.

ACC adjusts to budget cuts

By Senior Airman Amy Robinson

Air Combat Command Public Affairs

LANGLEY AIR FORCE BASE, Va. — Air Combat Command announced its plan to meet projected budget shortfalls and help cover costs of the Global War on Terrorism which includes curtailing non-critical activities and cutting up to 32,000 flying hours throughout ACC.

Currently, the Air Force's fiscal 2005 projected shortfall is an estimated \$3.7 billion, with Air Combat Command being short \$825 million in must-pay funds for the Global War on Terrorism, and operation and maintenance, said Col. David Goossens, the ACC comptroller.

Although a supplemental fund was implemented to help defray some costs from the Global War on Terrorism, it doesn't completely cover all expenses, Colonel Goossens said.

To help reduce future costs and help repay the debt, Air Force leaders directed major commands to develop "slow-down" plans with existing funds. ACC responded with a plan to curb spending and reflow the remainder of the 2005 flying hour program,

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Exercise prepares 442nd for combat

By Maj. David Kurle

442nd FW Public Affairs

MCCHORD AIR FORCE BASE, Wash. — The 442nd Fighter Wing got a chance to practice what it preaches Monday morning as the first A-10 of the day lifted off the runway here into a deck of broken clouds.

A second aircraft hurtled down the concrete strip shortly after, loaded like the first with six MK-82 500-pound bombs, on its way to the Yakima firing range, just a short flight over the Cascade Mountains.

Dubbed "Patriot Evergreen," the 442nd's annual deployment to this base just south of Tacoma, May 14 to today, is a chance for the wing to practice the skills it will need in future combat operations.

"We experience a higher pace of operations when we deploy here," said Tech. Sgt. Tami Goodhart, the lead aircraft maintenance scheduler in the 442nd Maintenance Operations Flight. "We don't have as many people as we do at Whiteman and the aircraft have to turn faster."

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Photo by Maj. David Kurle

A-10 pilot Lt. Col. Ronald Hanks, 442nd Fighter Wing, talks with crew chief Senior Airman Steve Powell. Members of the 442nd deployed to McChord Air Force Base for Operation Patriot Evergreen, an exercise featuring live fire bombing.

Commander's Corner

By Col. Chris Miller
509th Bomb Wing Commander

BASING FOR DOD'S FUTURE. On May 13 the Department of Defense released a list of recommended base realignments and closures.

If the recommendations stand, our teammates at the 442nd Fighter Wing will gain nine aircraft and more than 60 full-time and 150 part-time personnel. These changes are part of a much larger plan to transform and consolidate military operations around the world to meet today's challenges.

Before any of these changes are final, however, there are several more milestones and reviews in the BRAC process. The story on Page 3 today lists several resources Airmen can use to keep informed as our nation's leaders make important decisions about the future shape of our force.

THE GIFT OF LIFE. The next Red Cross blood drive will be Wednesday and Thursday 11 a.m.- 6 p.m. at the community activity center. The Whiteman Officers' Spouses' Club is sponsoring the drive, including Papa John's pizza and a special Whiteman T-shirt for blood donors! This drive comes at an important time because blood supplies in our area are critically low.

There is a particular need for O negative blood, the universal blood type that can be given to anyone, regardless of their blood type. Having a supply of this type of blood is critical in an emergency when there is no time to type a patient's blood before giving a transfusion.

Whiteman continues to be a strong support-

er of the Red Cross blood drives in this area, and it's important — you may never know how many lives your generosity will impact!

THRIFT SHOP THANKS. Whiteman held a great basewide yard sale May 7. One beneficiary of this event was our thrift shop, and the staff there thanks everyone who thought to donate items to the store. With a full inventory, the thrift shop held a bag sale May 10, selling more than 130 bags of donated goods.

The proceeds from thrift shop sales support several of our community programs. This is a great example of everyone working together to improve our community.

Thanks to Cindy Johnson and all of the super volunteers who donate their time and energy to keep the thrift shop helping Whiteman people!

SAFETY DAY TODAY. Today is Air Combat Command Safety Day at Whiteman ... and safety is something we must make a part of every day and every decision.

There are many activities that we all do have an element of risk — driving, running, cycling, boating, working around the house, sports — you name it, there's risk.

Safety is about good risk-management decisions. Think about yourself, your fellow Airman, and your family; assess risks and make safety-oriented decisions to minimize the bad things that could happen as you do any activity.

It's your life and health; it's important. Safety's not something you do, it's an attitude you live; and something you help others live, too. Without it ... you might not. Be safe!



Photo by Melissa Klinkner

Brooke Helper, thrift shop volunteer, sorts donations in the baby room. Revenue raised from thrift shop sales is used to support scholarship for dependent spouses and other community projects selected by the Whiteman Officers' Spouses Club and the Whiteman Enlisted Community Organization.

Accountability: essential in Air Force life

By 2nd Lt. Tom Hamlyn
509th Operations Group

Have you ever thought about why integrity first is our first core value and why service before self or excellence in all we do follow? It's not that these other core values aren't important; it's that without integrity, neither service nor excellence is possible. Without integrity, there's nothing holding us to our commitment to serve our country and to do it well. So what is integrity? Integrity is often portrayed as a deeply meaningful stance on right and wrong. This is a valid perspective, but I think it can be simplified to personal accountability.

As the joke goes, you never want to hear a lieutenant say, "In my experience..." but I'm going to do it anyway. I will, however, qualify my experience with the fact my Air Force experience is just short of two years.

In my experience on active duty, I've noticed success or failure typically comes down to Airmen holding themselves accountable for their actions or inactions. Whether it's failing to make it to morning physical training because they went out the night before, or dropping the ball on a

task because they forgot about it — they decided it wasn't important enough to follow through. They didn't hold themselves accountable.

Because of the nature of the Air Force and the mission we accomplish, if you fail to hold yourself accountable, you're only letting yourself and your team down. Your team members can adapt and overcome, but you increased their workload and made their life harder.

These situations are easy to avoid. If you adopt a lifestyle of personal accountability, you will succeed in the majority of things you set out to do. By doing the right thing and following through with things in your life, you set yourself up for success. I say you will succeed most of the time because we all make mistakes and things don't always fall in place.

How we handle failure makes the difference. Pointing fingers is a clear example of a lack of personal accountability. However, stepping up and taking responsibility shows you accept the situation, are willing to learn from it, and are ready to move on to what's next.

Once you hold yourself accountable, you can begin looking at the bigger picture.

Cohesive teams are able to function successfully because they trust each other to be accountable for contributing their piece to the team. Individual team members take personal accountability for their share and contribute to the end product.

Take this one step further. Your flight is nothing more than a number of elements (teams) and your squadron is a number of flights. Imagine a squadron, working together because they all trust each other. There are no weak links because each Airman holds himself accountable. Here's the amazing part: it's even bigger than your squadron.

These are the Air Force core values. We're subscribing to a vision that every Airman will hold himself accountable and we can trust each other.

I firmly believe we all want this vision to be reality but it takes a commitment from each of us. Hold yourself accountable for your actions and inactions. Lead by example for your fellow Airmen to follow.

I end with a challenge. Be the Airman everyone can trust, hold yourself accountable and embody integrity first. As we all rise to this challenge, there will be no end to how great our Air Force will be.

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The deadline for article submissions to the *Whiteman Spirit* is noon Friday. If a holiday falls on Friday, the deadline then becomes 4 p.m. Thursday. Articles will be published on a space-available basis. Submission doesn't guarantee publication.

For more information, call the *Whiteman Spirit* office at 687-6133, fax us at 687-7948, e-mail: whiteman.spirit@whiteman.AF.mil or write to us at:

509th BW/PA, 509 Spirit Blvd. Ste. 111
Whiteman AFB, Mo. 65305

More aircraft means new challenges for 1-135th

By 2nd Lt. Nathan Smith
Missouri Army National Guard

In March, the Missouri Army National Guard received their final AH-64 Apache attack helicopters from Fort Bragg, N.C. The unit now has 16. The first one arrived in July 2002.

In the process of receiving the aircraft, the 1-135th Aviation Battalion has had some challenges.

"The main challenge is having the physical space to store the aircraft," said Maj. Charles Hausman, 1-135th executive officer. The hangar cannot hold all 16 helicopters, so the rest will be tied down on the flight line.

"We have to coordinate with the 509th Bomb Wing or the 442d Fighter Wing to store the aircraft anytime there is inclement weather to store the aircraft," Major Hausman said. Maintenance challenges must also be overcome because more maintenance must be performed to keep the Apaches flying.

However, there are also benefits, Major Hausman said.

"There are more airframes to train on and the more aircraft the unit has, the more opportunities our pilots have to fly," the major said.

The new aircraft also give the unit's technicians and M-Day Soldiers more aircraft to work on during the week, on drill weekend and annual training.

The aircraft arrived just in time for the unit's annual June training, which will test pilot and mechanic skills in their first Aerial Gunnery and Hellfire Missile Shoot at Fort Riley, Kan.

The AH-64 Apache is used as an antitank weapon. It can carry 16 laser-guided precision Hellfire missiles, 76 70mm rockets, or a combination of both, and a 30mm automatic cannon with up to 1,200 rounds of high-explosive dual-purpose ammunition.

The U.S. Army has used Apaches in combat and peace-keeping operations around the globe since 1989.



Photo by Airman 1st Class Lauren Padden

Army Sgt. Bobby Gentry, Chief Warrant Officer Dub White and 1st Lt. Fin Carey, 1-135th Aviation Battalion, Missouri Army National Guard, prepare an Apache helicopter for liftoff. The unit has a total of 16 of the aircraft.

Rumsfeld to BRAC: cut 5 to 11 percent

Proposed base closures fewer than expected, SECDEF tells media

By Jim Garamone
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON (AFP) — Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld's recommendations to the Base Realignment and Closure Commission would cut excess military infrastructure between 5 and 11 percent, he said during a Pentagon news conference May 12.

"The department is recommending fewer major base closures than had earlier been anticipated, due in part to the return of tens of thousands of troops through our global posture review, and also due to decisions to reduce lease space by moving activities from lease space into owned facilities," Secretary Rumsfeld said.

But more than simply eliminating infrastructure, the BRAC round will allow the U.S. military to reorder itself to face the new threats of the 21st century, the secretary said.

"In 1961, President Kennedy took office and found a U.S. defense establishment that was still largely arranged to re-fight World War II," Secretary Rumsfeld said. "He ordered an extensive consolidation of bases to meet the challenges of the Cold War."

Today, DOD finds itself in the same situation. The department is using the BRAC round to change an infrastructure more attuned to the Cold War to meet "the new demands of war against extremists and other evolving 21st century challenges," Secretary Rumsfeld said.

The chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Gen. Richard B. Myers, said that BRAC gives the military the opportunity "to increase our combat efficiency and effectiveness, and return our forces to the deployable force structure, thereby reducing stress on the force."

Many BRAC recommendations will ease stress on servicemembers by allowing the military to provide modern, world-class facilities and more efficient and joint organizations, the chairman said.

The secretary's recommendations go to the BRAC commission on May 13. Commissioners will examine the recommendations and make their independent judgment

on each. They will present their list to President Bush in September. The president may approve or disapprove the list in total. If he approves it, it will go to Congress. Congress has 45 days to disapprove the list. If it does not, the list becomes law.

The secretary emphasized that the prime factor in each BRAC recommendation is an assessment of an installation's underlying military value.

"In a time of war, whenever we can find ways to increase support for military needs to help the warfighters, we should do no less," he said.

Previous BRAC rounds — in 1988, 1991, 1993 and 1995 — eliminated 21 percent of excess U.S. military infrastructure, and reallocated many billions of dollars to pressing military needs.

"This year's recommendation ... should result in some \$5.5 billion in recurring annual savings, a net savings of \$48.8 billion over 20 years," Secretary Rumsfeld said.

"When combined with the proposed changes to U.S. global posture, that projected 20-year net-savings increases from \$48.8 billion to \$64.2 billion, or some \$6.7 billion per year," he said.

The BRAC process began more than two years ago. Senior civilian and military leaders looked at how to close and realign current infrastructure to maximize warfighting capability.

General Myers said, "We had three objectives when we did that: (first) continuing the progress we have made in transforming our force including how we integrate our reserve component into the total force and preparing them for the 21st century; and how we posture our forces globally to be more flexible and agile. Second, configuring our infrastructure to enhance joint warfighting, facilitate joint training and improve efficiency and, finally, converting unneeded capacity into warfighting capability."

Both Secretary Rumsfeld and General Myers thanked the many civilian and military people who worked on the process.

Officials said base closings and realignments are hard on the communities affected by the changes. Secretary Rumsfeld pledged to help the communities and workers that will be displaced by the process.

"The department will take great care to work with these communities, with the respect that they have earned, and the government stands ready with economic assistance," he said.

Missouri feels BRAC effects

Nine A-10 aircraft and dozens of Airmen would transfer to the 442nd Fighter Wing from New Orleans under realignments proposed by the Department of Defense May 13.

The moves are part of a broader effort to consolidate the A-10 fleet.

By 2011, the Defense Department projects the 442nd Fighter Wing would grow by 77 full-time personnel and 163 drill positions.

The proposed changes did not affect other units at Whiteman Air Force Base.

Other recommendations affecting Missouri include ceasing flight operations at Lambert Air Guard Station in St. Louis and redistributing the 131st Fighter Wing's aircraft to other F-15 units. The 139th Airlift Wing at Rosecrans Memorial Airport Air Guard Station in St. Joseph, Missouri, would gain 4 C-130 transport aircraft. Defense Finance and Accounting Service offices in Kansas City and St. Louis were listed for closure as part of the consolidation of DFAS operations.

Overall, the DoD BRAC recommendations, if adopted, would close 33 major bases—defined as having a value of \$100 million or greater—and realign 29 others, in addition to consolidating dozens of Reserve and National Guard units and locations.

If fully implemented, the recommended changes will generate an estimated net savings of nearly \$50 billion over the next two decades. When combined with the anticipated savings from overseas basing realignments around the world, the projected net savings increases to \$64.2 billion.

"Our current arrangements, designed for the Cold War, must give way to the new demands of the war against extremism and other evolving 21st Century challenges," said Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld.

For full details on the department's recommendations, go to <http://www.defenselink.mil/brac>. For a breakdown of proposed changes affecting the Air Force, visit <http://www.af.mil/brac>.
(Compiled from staff reports)

Know the rules: keep computers free of illegal software

By **1st Lt. Thomas Woodring**

509th Communications Squadron

How many times have you “burned” or downloaded a copy of a computer program or software? How many times have you installed software on several computers when the license only allows it to be loaded on one computer? Do you think of this as an illegal activity or do you think it’s OK since everyone else is doing it?

Unfortunately, illegal and unauthorized software can be a big problem, especially when it’s installed on a government-owned computer. Executive Order 13103 states “each agency shall adopt procedures to ensure that the agency does not acquire, reproduce, distribute, or transmit computer software in violation of applicable copyright laws.”

In other words, the software you have on your government computer can only be software that is authorized by a

software license.

Additionally, Air Force Instruction 33-114 provides further guidance about what is and isn’t authorized software. Essentially, if it’s on your government computer, there must be a valid license or license agreement for the software.

Keep in mind that a license agreement is an agreement to use the software and does not imply ownership. Also, the license agreement will stipulate what can and cannot be done with the software.

AFI 33-114, paragraph 8.2 further states, “do not install freeware, shareware or personally owned software on government systems without approval of the system administrator or network manager.”

This means you cannot load your personal software on a government computer without first receiving permission.

Your unit software license manager is responsible for

verifying the software you have on your government computer is legal and authorized. However, all of us share the responsibility of understanding software management.

AFI 33-114 also requires users to annually complete the Air Force Software License Management and Anti-Piracy computer-based training. This training can be accessed through the IT E-learning link on the Air Force Portal at <http://www.my.af.mil> or through the 509th Communications Squadron link on the Whiteman Intranet at <https://intranet.whiteman.af.mil/509BW/509MSG/509CS/index.shtml>. Please contact your unit software license manager or the base software license manager at 687-1560 if you need further assistance.

We all share the responsibility to keep unauthorized and illegal software from being loaded on our government-owned computers. We also need to help our unit software license managers account for the software that is authorized. Thank you for doing your part.

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Asian Awareness



Photo by Senior Airman Joe Lacdan

Master Sgt. Pedro Villanueva, 509th Maintenance Squadron, speaks about Asian and Pacific Islander history and culture at the community center Tuesday. Sergeant Villanueva invited guests to attend a breakfast and spoke about notable events in Asian American history including the Immigration Act of 1965 and the Vietnam War.

Chief bids farewell to 8th Air Force

By Chief Master Sgt. Jeffrey Ledoux
8th Air Force Command Chief Master Sergeant

After 30 years of service to this great country, it is with a heavy heart that I must say goodbye to you, and this great Air Force. Although I take my uniform off, I will always remember each of you, both military and civilian, for what you stand for and what you do. It is you who makes our Air Force the most powerful and feared Air Force in the world.

From Eastern Europe to the Western Pacific and everywhere in between, no matter where I traveled I’ve had the opportunity to see professionals in action. I want you to know I was always impressed with your knowledge and dedication to getting the mission done.

Although my success can be attributed to many things, it was others who inspired and helped me to this level of achievement. I have had lots of great supervisors who taught me a great deal about caring for people. I believe people are our greatest resource. Technology ages with time, but each of you gets better and more knowledgeable every day. It’s that level of knowledge and commitment that makes us admired by military organizations around the world.

Although my family will always be the greatest joy in my life, my chief induction ceremony and the day I pinned on chief master sergeant will forever be ingrained in my memory. I owe a great deal to the chiefs in my past and even more to you, the people who helped me achieve that rank. I’m proud to call you my friends. More importantly, I believe that each of you have the opportunity to reach your goals whatever they may be. Don’t allow a roadblock to hinder you from achieving your objectives.

In my 30 years, the question I was asked most is how I became a chief master sergeant. I consider that easy to answer, because the answer lies in Air Force Instruction 36-2618, The Enlisted Force Structure. However, I’ll simplify it by saying that by following our core values and this booklet, you will achieve success.

I would like to offer a special thanks to Lt. Gen. Bruce Carlson for giving me the opportunity to serve as your enlisted leader in 8th Air Force.

Finally, thanks to the 45,000-plus men and women of 8th Air Force for your dedication to ensuring this command lives up to its nickname “The Mighty Eighth.” Thanks for allowing me the opportunity to share my time and messages with you. I respect your service to this great nation and leave this great Air Force knowing that you are prepared to carry the torch. It was an honor to serve with you in peace and in war. Best wishes for happiness and success.

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Spouse support



Photo by Airman 1st Class Lauren Padden

Gabby Muller makes a card during a cardmaking and stamping class during the National Military Spouse Appreciation Celebration Day at the family support center May 13. Mrs. Muller is the wife of Senior Airman Morrel Muller, 509th Communications Squadron.

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the colonel said.

Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. John Jumper approved more than \$737 million in slow-down actions for ACC, including curtailing non-critical travel and purchases of non-critical supplies, and limiting contract purchases and services. ACC will also reduce facility projects, contract logistics support and depot maintenance.

Additionally, ACC began applying the flying hour cuts Sunday which represent up to an overall 10 percent reduction from the command’s total fiscal year flying hour program. Cutting what could be up to 60 percent of the fiscal year’s remaining training flight hours will absorb approximately \$272 million in GWOT debt. In reprogramming the remaining hours, ensuring combat-ready forces will be a top concern.

“Our first priority is to protect AEF combat capability,” said Maj. Gen. Mike DeCuir, ACC director of operations.

In addition to protecting AEF deployers, General DeCuir said ACC will try to “fence” several key units from flying hour cuts including F/A-22 units, test and training units, and recruiting units like the Thunderbirds.

“Although this fence may not guarantee those units will have 100 percent of their remaining flying hours, our staff will work to ensure they can complete flying,” General DeCuir said. “However, we may harvest excess hours from these programs.”

Units outside the fence will absorb the majority of the flying hour cuts, General DeCuir said. Units are reflowing their flying hour program to meet the ACC targeted stop-flying date of Sept. 16. Units are also being urged to “cut as hard as you can while maintaining this target regime.”

Even with making the flight training hours cuts, General DeCuir estimates units will still be able to preserve 60 to 80 percent of combat readiness using an orchestrated revolving “look-back” schedule.

Although cutting flying hours is challenging, the general said commanders have many options available to them.

“This reduction requires flexibility and teamwork,” the general said. “Everyone needs to focus on reducing the flying hours safely and efficiently.”

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Finding New Life:

Group joins cancer survivors

By **Melissa Klinkner**

Public Affairs

At 8:15 p.m. Aug. 30, 2004, Master Sgt. Dee Ann Poole received the call that changed her life. The call came from her doctor's office; the nurse had called to inform Sergeant Poole she'd been diagnosed with breast cancer.

"I was breathless," she said. "My conversation with the nurse was a blur. It didn't really sink in until the next day."

In what seemed like minutes, Sergeant Poole's life went through a whirlwind of change. She went from working in the 509th Bomb Wing public affairs office to becoming the recipient of numerous surgeries and treatments. It also included time-consuming computer research and learning a new language – medical terminology. "It's a tough language to learn because it can be so confusing," she said.

Over a period of seven months, she underwent several magnetic resonance imaging tests, a mastectomy and removal of seven lymph nodes – two of which had been cancerous – and received eight chemotherapy treatments – chemical treatments that made Sergeant Poole feel nauseous, foggy and exhausted.

After overcoming these physical chal-

lenges, Sergeant Poole is now trying to rebuild her familiar way of life while creating a "new normal." This comes with confusion and many, often unanswerable, questions. "What happens next? When will my hair grow back completely? When will my taste buds return to normal? How will I try to prevent the threat of the cancer coming back?" she asks.

Although she's been surrounded by her husband, Senior Master Sgt. Steve Poole, two children, extended family, friends and fellow Airmen through the journey, Sergeant Poole said there were still times when she felt alone. "You can't do it by yourself ... you just can't," she said.

Sergeant Poole knew there were others in the Whiteman community also fighting a form of cancer. It was with this thought that she decided to form a cancer support group here. "This was important to me because I wanted to meet other military members who had or have cancer so we can be a resource for other members of the Whiteman team to call upon. I feel the military tie we have binds us together as a family."

Members of the group agree it helps to share experiences. "I now have more people I can call on if I need help when I'm feeling down," Sergeant Poole said. "They've been where I've been."



Photo by Andrea Ernst

Oncologist Dr. Larry Geier examines Master Sgt. Dee Ann Poole. Sergeant Poole completed chemotherapy March 22.

She said maintaining a full-time positive attitude is impossible but it helps to set small goals and meet them. Starting this group was one of her goals. "It gave me something to focus on besides the chemo and how I felt after each one."

Master Sgt. Karin Clark, a support group attendee, said, "It helps to know you're not the only one. You feel less isolated."

This 509th Maintenance Squadron mem-

ber has her own story of battling cancer. It started with a routine appointment at family practice. After a two-and-one-half-hour appointment, Sergeant Clark was notified she could have either a severe infection, a collapsed lobe in her right lung or lung cancer. Three weeks later, her doctors determined it was definitely lung cancer.

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After learning the diagnosis, Sergeant Clark was surprised and scared to tell her children. She said, at 39, it's rare for someone her age to have an advanced lung cancer tumor. "I just let them think everything was going to work out OK until I knew for sure if I was going to have a surgery." It was extremely hard for her to tell her mother and siblings – her father died of lung cancer in 1985. "It was like a repeat nightmare," she said.

She was recommended to a thoracic surgeon and her entire right lung was removed in 2004. "The hardest part for me is know-

ing I probably could've prevented the whole experience if I'd never started smoking," she said.

When she saw Sergeant Poole's ad in the base newspaper advertising the support group she decided to participate. Sergeant Clark said it helps to get a different perspective on the experience and it's been valuable because of the military connection.

Sergeant Poole said the group is also beneficial because people are at least talking about things and not bottling them up.

Tech. Sgt. Jonathan Taylor, another participant in the group, agrees. "When you're

going through something and you feel alone and like no one understands because they've never been there, that's when you need to talk and hear from those who've been there and are going through it too."

This 442nd Logistics Readiness Squadron member fought his own cancer battle in 2001. After having a wart removed from his leg, a biopsy analysis revealed it had been cancerous. As Sergeant Taylor began checking himself more thoroughly, he found an irregularity and brought it to his doctor's attention.

Sergeant Taylor was diagnosed with testicular cancer, underwent an operation and had follow-up radiation treatments. Now, due to his early detection and treatment, he

has been certified cancer-free.

He attended the cancer support group to share with others the fact that "being diagnosed with cancer isn't the end of the world. Cancer can be beaten and survived. I did it, you can too," he said.

Holding onto the hope of beating the battle and keeping a positive attitude as often as possible, these cancer survivors are reaching out and making a difference in their lives and the lives of others through their cancer support group. "If it can make one person more positive about themselves and their situation, it's worth attending and recommending," said Sergeant Clark.

For more details about the support group, call Sergeant Poole at 687-6125.

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EXERCISE, from Page 1



Photo by Master Sgt. Bill Huntington

Lt. Col. Ronald Hankes, 442nd Fighter Wing, prepares his A-10 Thunderbolt for takeoff.

The 442nd made the trip here Saturday and Sunday, not counting the advance team, flying in six of the Air Force's premier ground-attack aircraft. A C-5 Galaxy transport aircraft carried the necessary maintenance and support personnel and equipment.

"We set up everything so that when it was time to do business we had everything we needed," said Tech. Sgt. Jose Torres, a material expeditor from the 442nd Aircraft Maintenance Squadron.

Sergeant Torres provides tools and equipment needed to keep the A-10s flying throughout the exercise.

He stressed that deployments like Patriot Evergreen are necessary to keep the fighter wing ready for any contingency, and Sergeant Torres should know since he deployed with the 442nd to both Afghanistan and Iraq.

"Exercises like this helped us before we went to war in Afghanistan and Iraq," he said. "These little deployments help us learn to work as a team."

To make the training realistic, the 303rd Fighter Squadron's intelligence section prepares a scenario to keep the focus on the mission of putting bombs on target.

In Patriot Evergreen, the scenario is one that the wing's people could face in an actual deployment to Iraq, supporting U.S. Army units in a simulated ground offensive, according to Capt. David Casler, an intelligence officer in the 303rd Fighter Squadron.

"This exercise gives us face time with the pilots – so they can get to know the intel. folks," he said. "We're practicing our deployed job of giving step briefs to the pilots before their sorties and debriefs to the pilots after their sorties – this gives them more confidence in our abilities during the real thing."

Another benefit of the exercise giving younger Airmen the experience of operating in a combat environment, said Master Sgt. Steve Hult, 442nd Aircraft Maintenance Squadron expeditor.

"This exercise gives us an opportunity to teach the younger troops how to work in a deployed environment and focus on the

mission of maintenance," Sergeant Hult said. "It gives us more training than on the weekends, we're working with live bombs and live bullets – it's as realistic as we can get without someone actually shooting at us."

For some of the 442nd's Airmen, this was their first mission away from Whiteman.

"I'm getting the gist of how things would work in a war-time environment,"

said Senior Airman Tim Murphy from the 303rd Fighter Squadron's intelligence section.

"It's good to watch the jets take off after all the work we've done to them because we can get a lot closer to them than we can at Whiteman," said Senior Airman Andrew Heck from the egress section of the 442nd Maintenance Squadron.

"It feels good to see the fruits of your labor and learning a little bit of what it's like to go to war," said the Airman whose job is to maintain the A-10s' ejection systems.

For the pilots, the training is valuable because it's simply a different place than the range the 303rd FS usually flies to in its home state of Missouri, according to A-10 pilot, Lt. Col. Ronald Hankes.

"Anytime we have to deploy someplace different is good training for us," he said. "Looking for targets in an unfamiliar environment lets us practice our target identification skills."

Using live bombs and bullets also enhances the training, according to Colonel Hankes.

"There's nothing like the real thing, we have 3,000 pounds of ordnance and that affects how the aircraft performs," he said. "It's important for fighter pilots to drop live ordnance once in a while."

Since preparing for combat is the primary job of an Air Force unit, deployments like Patriot Evergreen are a valuable tool for highlighting strengths and weaknesses, Lt. Col. Hankes said.

"Anything that gets you used to combat deployments is good training," he said. "You don't want the first time you experience this to be in combat."



Photo by Maj. David Kurl

An A-10 soars over the Yakima Firing Range at McChord Air Force Base, Wash.

Star Wars:

By Senior Airman Joe Lacdan
Public Affairs

A long time ago, in a city far far, away from Whiteman, a boy named Luke discovered the force...

Luke became a fan of George Lucas' world renowned Star Wars movies. Luke, now Tech. Sgt. Luke Ford, began a 27-year hobby as a four year old playing with toy lightsabers in 1977.

With the release of the series' final installment, Episode III "Revenge of the Sith" Thursday, Sergeant Ford, along with millions of Star Wars fans worldwide, have the chance relive the magic one last time.

"As a young child, I really enjoyed the toys and the lightsaber fights," Sergeant Ford said. "Today I enjoy the artistic elements George Lucas has put into the movies."

Today, Sergeant Ford, now a 31-year old instructor at the airman leadership school, continues his love of the Force. He and his seven-year old son have created 56 lego depictions of classic Star Wars figures and aircraft, including a one-foot tall Yoda and a Star Destroyer made of 3,104 lego pieces.

Sergeant Ford's Star Wars hobbies extended beyond collecting plastic toys.

In the spring of 2002, while stationed at Vandenburg Air Force Base, Calif., he drove 160 miles to see the premier of Episode II "Attack of the Clones" on a digital screen in Hollywood, Calif.

In 1999, he stood in line for 24 hours to

The Saga Lives On



Photo by Senior Airman Joe Lacdan

Tech. Sgt. Luke Ford and Airman 1st Class Tommy Day (dressed as Star Wars character Boba Fett) display their dedication to the Star Wars movies. Sergeant Ford built a one foot Yoda model made from 1,075 Lego pieces.

see the first showing of "The Phantom Menace."

Master Sgt. John Ward was 10 years old when he entered a theater in Tulsa, Okla., to see Episode IV "A New Hope." He said the action scenes had him hooked.

"It was a combination of great characters, swashbuckling action," Sergeant Ward said. "The special effects were better than any at that time."

Sergeant Ford has his lego addiction,

but other Whiteman members show their star wars affection in other ways.

Sergeant Ward is a self-admitted "Yoda freak." He decorates his desk in the finance office with five figurines of the Jedi Master.

Staff Sgt. Frank Mattair, 509th Munitions Squadron, has collected more than 7,000 Star Wars trading cards. Airman 1st Class Charles Lile, 509th MUNS, collects action figures and model ships.

Airman 1st Class Tommy Day, 509th

Aircraft Maintenance Squadron, took a more drastic measure, purchasing an authentic replica costume of bounty hunter Boba Fett at more than \$1,900.

Sergeant Ford and Ward both planned to attend Thursday's midnight premiere of "Sith" with their sons.

"He'll be packing a light saber and a wookie water blaster," Sergeant Ward said. "I've passed the obsession on to a new generation."

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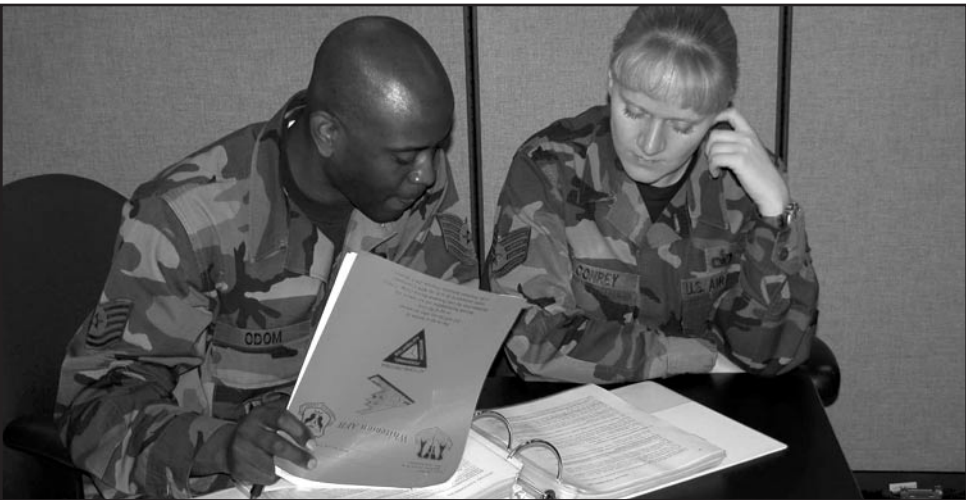


Photo by Senior Airman Neo Martin

Tech. Sgt. Dione Odom, 509th Mission Support Squadron, and Staff Sgt. Stacie Conrey, 509th Security Forces Squadron, review Air Force Instruction 36-2104 Nuclear Weapons Personnel Reliability Program.

NSI information of the week

(Editor's note: The 509th Bomb Wing Plans and Programs Office will provide tips and other information to help 509ers prepare for the Nuclear Surety Inspection June 20-24. This week's topic is the personnel reliability program. Read future issues of the Whiteman Spirit for more helpful information.)

Inspectors will review up to 30 percent of the individual personnel and medical records for personal reliability program-qualified members. They will look for the proper clearances, nuclear surety training and medical information in the records.

Many organizations across Whiteman

are involved with PRP. Each unit has a certifying official, normally the squadron commander, who is responsible for the precise management of the PRP program.

Tech. Sgt. Dione Odom is the 509th Bomb Wing PRP monitor. He's working with the 509th Medical Group and squadrons to ensure the 509th has a top-notch program in place for the inspection. During March and April, Sergeant Odom and the medical experts completed a 100 percent records review of the squadrons under the PRP program. Unit staff assistance visits are now being conducted to review personnel records for accuracy on PRP-related paperwork.

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Senior Airmen John Barfield, and Andrew Martin, 509th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron members, navigate through a communication exercise at airman leadership school. The mine field exercise serves several purposes. It's scheduled early into the ALS course to help break the ice and encourage interaction and participation among the students. "It just sets the tone for airman leadership school — that we encourage learning beyond lecture," Staff Sgt. Kristy Brown, ALS instructor, said.



Above: Senior Airman Josh Harms, 442nd Civil Engineer Squadron, talks with Floyd Davis, a World War II Army veteran, during an airman leadership school community project. The students chose to visit the Warrensburg Veterans' Home to spend time with their military predecessors and serve them lunch. Right: Senior Airman Jeremy Collins, 325th Bomb Squadron, calls orders to a flight during a summative drill and ceremony test as Staff Sgt. Timothy Bouseman evaluates his performance. Sergeant Bouseman is one of three instructors and a superintendent assigned to Whiteman's ALS.



Senior Airman Brian Mueller, 509th Logistics Readiness Squadron, shows his classmates the proper technique for folding the flag. Students attending airman leadership school are responsible for raising and lowering the flag outside the ALS building daily. Teamwork is focused on heavily during ALS. Students are encouraged to work as a team to help develop each other into well-rounded first-line supervisors.



Senior Airman Rose Walls, 509th Maintenance Squadron, crosses the finish line during a physical fitness evaluation run. Airman leadership school focuses on developing students into contemporary military leaders by educating them in and outside the classroom. Fitness is taught as a way to reduce stress and as a means to maintain readiness.

Airman leadership school

from classroom to first-line supervisor in five weeks

Story and photos by Senior Airman Neo Martin
Public Affairs

Building the Air Force's future leaders is the prime focus of professional military education. As Airmen progress through the enlisted ranks, there comes a time to solidify their knowledge and skills required to be a supervisor, mentor and leader — that is when airman leadership school comes in.

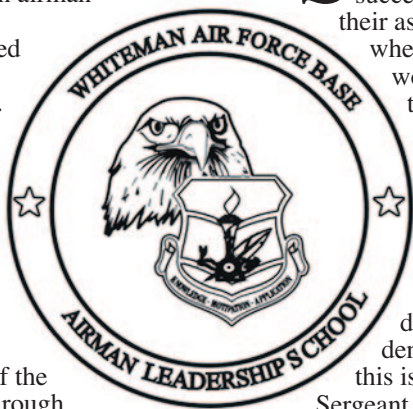
ALS is the Air Force's first of three PME levels for enlisted members. The hands-on course offers experiences and information geared toward preparing Airmen for their NCO roles. The five week school's lessons are enhanced by exercises and role-playing to help ensure the students understand their new roles.

The lessons taught in ALS are directly related to Airmen's roles and responsibilities described in Air Force Instruction 36-2618, The Enlisted Force Structure. The course also revisits the importance of the core values and encourages the students to apply the lessons learned to their duty sections and build upon it.

"Realism is very important to (ALS students') retention of the course material. We providing information and experience through scenarios that are transferable to the work centers and relevant to first-level supervisor roles," Tech. Sgt. Luke Ford, ALS instructor, said.

To help ensure a successful transition to NCO status, the ALS curriculum provides senior airmen with basic leadership and managerial skills, reinforcing a commitment to the profession of arms. Much of this learning comes from the Air Force communication lessons. The instruction and related assignments allow students to apply practical knowledge.

During the communications section, Airmen write everything from letters of request and bullet statements to letters of reprimand and counseling. The speech portion offers Airmen a chance to present briefings and conduct a counseling session.



"These skills will have a huge impact on the individual's success as a supervisor, and it's wonderful we have the opportunity to develop this foundation before the student actually becomes a supervisor," Staff Sgt. Kristy Brown, ALS instructor, said.

Students also participate in team building exercises to learn the intricacies of group dynamics. The team concept is vital in the success of an ALS class. Teamwork motivates students to read their assignments, interact in class discussion and picks up students when the demanding curriculum weighs them down. "Teamwork is what these students will bring back to their duty sections, making the mission more successful," Sergeant Brown said.

Aside from developing into a cohesive team and being tested on their scholastic aptitude, students are tested on their drill and ceremonies proficiency and physical fitness.

Regardless of the test, the requirements to graduate ALS are designed to set the soon-to-be NCOs up for success. "(As ALS instructors we) guide Airmen in the right direction and help them to realize their potential. Most students who come to ALS already have leadership experience — this is an opportunity for them to fine-tune their abilities,"

Sergeant Brown said. "ALS empowers students to set forth on their career advancement into the NCO ranks with the aptitude, conditioning and inclination to be capable and effective leaders," said Senior Airman Josh Harms, 442nd Civil Engineer Squadron and recent ALS class 05-D graduate.

"My biggest priority when a new class comes to ALS is to develop the students to be effective supervisors, ready for increased responsibility when they return to work. I want the students to truly apply what they've learned to be the best supervisors possible. I want their supervisors to tell me what a great job they are doing. I want their subordinates and co-workers to come through ALS and share positive experiences and observations about that new supervisor," Sergeant Brown said.

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Whats happening

Education

For more details, visit the education center Web site at <https://wwwmil.whiteman.af.mil/509mss/educ/homepage.htm> or call 687-5750.

OTS packages due June 10-July 1

Officer training school will conduct a non-rated selection board Aug. 26 with packages due between June 10 and July 1. A commissioning briefing begins at 1:30 p.m. Thursday in Room 20 at the base training and education services building. The November board is cancelled, and the first opportunity to apply in fiscal 2006 will be March 3, 2006.

Commissioning briefing set

The next commissioning briefing takes place 1:00 Thursday at base training and education services, room 20. This briefing is open to all enlisted members seeking a commission in the United States Air Force. To schedule, call BTES at 687-2420.

Community

Youth sports physicals available

Family members planning to play youth sports in 2005-2006 can get a sports physical today and Tuesday-Friday at the 509th Medical Group. To schedule an appointment, call 687-2188.

B-2 tours available

Do your family and friends want to see the B-2 up close? They can view the B-2 from 10:45 a.m.-noon June 10, July 8, Aug. 12, Sept. 9 and Oct 14 in front of base operations. To sign up or for more details, call public affairs at 687-6128.

Clubs may need special status

Squadron booster clubs and other fundraising activity organizations may be required to become a private organization. POs are self-sustaining interest groups organized by people outside the scope of official business. If your organization's or activity's assets exceed a monthly average of \$1,000 over a three-month period, it's required to become a PO. Members of any PO or unofficial activity who wish to start a fundraiser must submit an official request. For more details, call Dianne Maness, 509th Services Squadron private organization monitor.

Family Support

Call 687-7132 for more details on these events or other family support center activities. Events take place at the FSC.

WIC representative visits base

A WIC representative is available beginning at 8:30 a.m. Tuesday and Thursday. WIC includes nutrition education, health promotion and a supplemental food program to help women, infants and children who have nutritional needs. For more details, call the WIC office in Warrensburg at 747-2012.

Pre-deployment briefing set

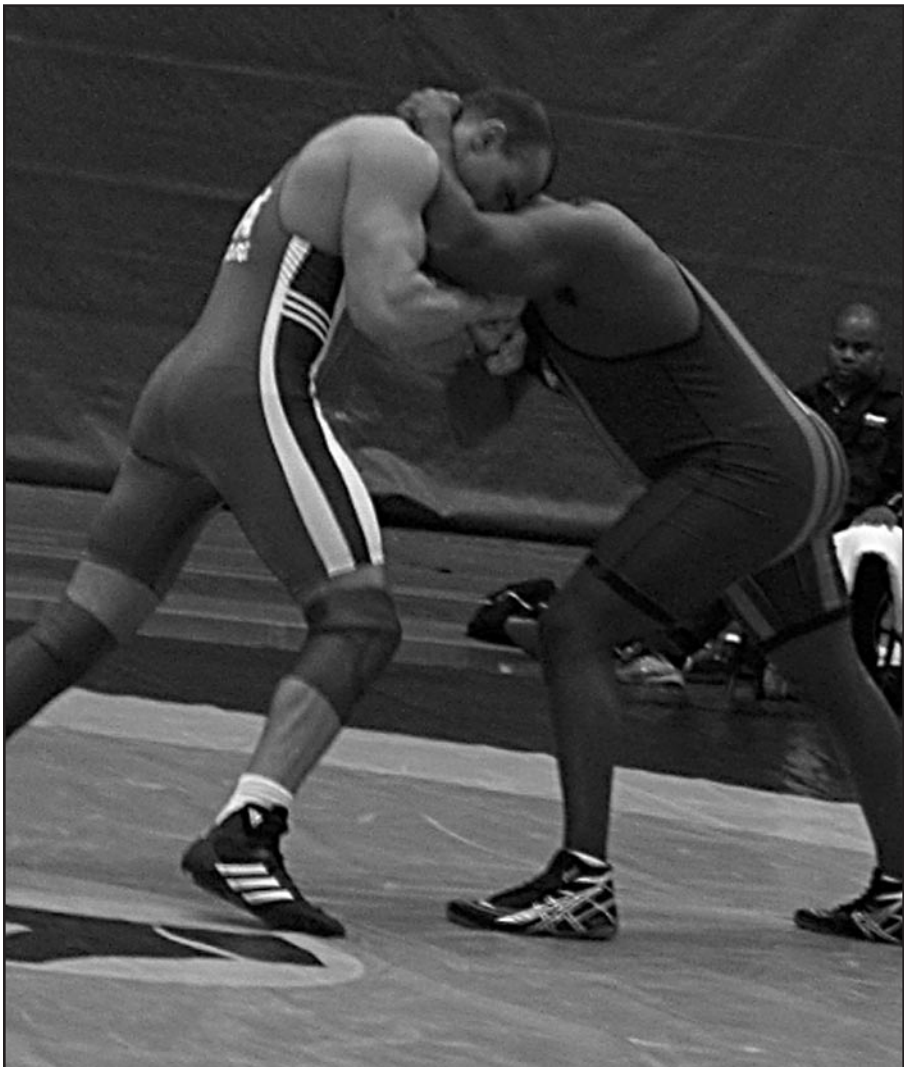
A mandatory pre-deployment briefing for people who are deploying or going on a temporary duty assignment for more than 30 days begins at 1p.m. Wednesday. Spouses are encouraged to attend.

Class helps with move

A mandatory stateside smooth move seminar for people planning to move stateside in the near future begins at 1p.m. Thursday. Facilitators will discuss the financial benefits associated with moving and provide a variety of useful resources. PCS orders are not necessary. Spouses are encouraged to attend. Reservations are required.

Sports

Dominant maneuver



Courtesy photo

First Lt. David Hunter, left, wrestles Army Staff Sgt. Dremiel Byers, the 2002 World Greco-Roman Champion. Lieutenant Hunter represented the Air Force March 31-April 1 at the 2005 Armed Forces Wrestling Championships in Colorado Springs, Colo., in the 120-kilogram weight category in freestyle and Greco-Roman wrestling. Before being selected to represent the Air Force, Lieutenant Hunter successfully completed the All Air Force Wrestling Trial Camp Feb 23-March 27. The lieutenant is a member of Detachment 12, Air Combat Command Training Support Squadron.

Aerobics schedule

For more details about the fitness center, call 687-5496.

Monday — 5:15 p.m. Core Strength, 6:15 p.m. Yoga, and 8 p.m. Cardio Kickbox

Tuesday — 9 a.m. Pilates, 11:30 Extreme Fitness, 4:30 p.m. Cycling, and 8 p.m. Turbo Kick

Wednesday — 5:15 p.m. Core Strength, and 8 p.m. instructors Choice

Thursday — 9 a.m. Pilates, 11:30 a.m. Extreme Fitness, 4:30 p.m. Cycling, and 8 p.m. Cardio Kickbox

Aerobics definitions

Cardio Kickbox— A cardiovascular workout that concludes with toning and abdominal strengthening session. Improves balance and coordination. Appropriate for all fitness levels.

Core Strength— A session that improves core strength, flexibility, balance, coordination, and builds strong abs and physique.

Extreme Fitness— A total body workout using fat and carbohydrate energy systems for fuel. Can be tailored for any fitness level.

Pilates— A non-impact mat based

workout that uses a series of specific, controlled movements to improve posture, flexibility, strength and body awareness

Turbo Kick— A fusion of kickboxing, dance, aerobics and sports drills set to music.

Yoga— A session geared toward relaxing, strengthening and soothing the body and mind focusing on elongation, alignment and breathing.

Cycling— A low impact intense cardio workout in a non-competitive environment.

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Services Page editor.....Poppy Arthurton
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Sports & Recreation

Outdoor Recreation

687-5565

Boater safety course (pontoon)

People who are interested in renting a boat from outdoor recreation this summer, must take a certification class. The next pontoon boat class is 8 a.m.-12 p.m. Thursday at Windsor Crossing. The cost is \$5. Call outdoor recreation for more details.

Long Shoals launch

An intramural bass fishing tournament takes place 12:30 p.m. Thursday at Truman Lake. Participants can register and pay a one-time fee of \$20 at outdoor recreation. This allows people to participate in the nine remaining tournaments throughout the season. Call outdoor recreation for details.

Last week for discount pool passes

Base members can purchase discount season passes to the pool at outdoor recreation. The prices are \$45 for a family and \$20 for a single pass. The cost increases \$5 after Thursday. The pool opens May 27 with free swimming all weekend for ID card holders.

Airmen rafting adventure

Airmen are invited to take part in a 3-day rafting trip at the Air Force Academy, Colorado Springs, Co., leaving at 7 a.m. June 24 from outdoor recreation. The trip costs \$165 per person which includes camping equipment, rafting trip, transportation and dinner on Saturday night. Participants will need extra money for other meals, snacks and gift shops. Call outdoor recreation by June 3 to sign up.

Fitness Center

687-5496

B-2 Bikers

Spinning enthusiasts can join a new cycling club. The B-2 Bikers meets at 3 p.m. Monday, Wednesday and Friday at the fitness center.

Towel service

Effective June 1, the fitness center will no longer provide towels. Customers should bring a towel for personal use. Cleaning solution and paper towels for wiping down equipment will still be supplied.

Whiteman triathlon

Sign up for the June 18 Whiteman triathlon now through June 15. The triathlon includes swimming 520 meters, a 10K bike ride and a 5K run. There are male and female individual open divisions and team divisions. Teams can be coed and must have a swimmer, runner and cyclist.

Royal Oaks Golf Course

687-5572

Memorial Day scramble

A four-person scramble tournament will shotgun start at 9 a.m. May 30 at the Royal Oaks Golf Course. Sign up by Wednesday. The cost is \$20 per person plus cart and greens fee.

Tickets and Travel

687-5643

Armed Forces vacation club

Eligible Department of Defense members have space-available access to more than 3,500 resorts in more than 80 countries. Condos are available from \$264 a week. Visit <http://www.afvclub.com> for availability and call 800-724-9988 for reservations (state installation No. 255). Call tickets and travel for terms and conditions.

Food & Fun

Stars and Strikes

687-5114

Summer leagues

Get out of the heat and into a Stars and Strikes summer bowling league. Leagues start playing 6 p.m. Monday. Contact the bowling center for more details.

Mission's End

687-4422

May coin special

Show your club coin between 6-8 p.m. and receive a pint of Sam Adams Summer Ale for just \$2.

Major League Baseball

Club members can watch 60 untelevised MLB games weekly for free in the Lavene Lounge.

Memorial Day closure

Mission's End will be closed over the Memorial Day weekend, May 27-30.



Community Activities

Skills Development Center

687-5691

Spin and win!

Throughout May, customers have one chance a day to spin the wheel and win a 5, 10, 15 or 20 percent discount off their purchase at the skills development center (does not include consigned items).

Framing class

Bring a 5-by-7 or smaller picture to the skills development center and learn how to cut single and double mats, assemble, cut glass and join a frame. The class is 6-9 p.m. Thursday. The cost is \$25 per person or \$37.50 for a married couple.

Youth Center

687-5586

School's out for the summer!

Celebrate a year of hard work at the youth center's end of school party. Students from kindergarten to fourth grade can build ice cream masterpieces, play bingo for toys or challenge friends to a pool, carpet ball or a gokey match. The party starts 6:30 p.m. today at the youth center, the cost is \$6 for members and \$7.50 for nonmembers.

Wildlife rescue program

The Operation Wildlife Rescue team of Kansas City, Mo., will be educating children on the importance of wildlife if our society and the responsibility of trying to help these animals get back into their habitats. There will be two sessions "Don't touch babies" is for ages 5-8 at 3-4 p.m. and "Day shift birds" is for ages 9-14 at 4-5 p.m. June 2 at the youth center. Sign up from Monday. Children under 9 years must be accompanied by an adult.

Archery camp

A youth archery camp will be held 10 a.m.-12 p.m. Monday-Thursday. Open to ages 9-15, the youths will learn how to correctly use a bow and arrows. Matthew Genesis bows, arrows, arm and finger guards and targets will all be supplied. Children of deployed parents will be given priority. The cost is \$10 for members and \$12 for nonmembers.

Youth beautification days

Fifth-12 graders are invited to help spruce up the youth and teen center outdoor recreation areas 10 a.m.-3 p.m. June 1 and 2. The teen keystone club needs volunteers to paint new lines on the basketball court and the other game areas. Sign up by May 20 by contacting the youth or teen centers.

Teen Center

687-5819

Teen barbeque and fishing party

Teens can join their friends for a barbeque and fishing con-

test 8:30 a.m.-3 p.m. Saturday at the base lake. There will be a prize for the biggest fish caught. The cost is \$5, which includes food and fishing equipment. Don't forget to bring sunblock.

Community Center

687-5617

Roller blade rodeo

Families can enjoy an afternoon of roller blading. There will be events such as barrel racing, pole bending, flag race and relay. The event starts 1 p.m. Saturday at the skate park. Participants will compete in divisions depending upon their age. Helmets should be worn by all and elementary and sophomore divisions ages 8-16 must wear knee pads.

Birds of Missouri

First-fifth graders can learn about the birds of Missouri at a community center event at 3-4:30 p.m. May 28. Children will learn about the foods birds eat and make a bird feeder.

Paintball mania

There will be an airmen's paintball trip leaving at 12 p.m. June 4 from the community center. Package deals are available at the facility and offer 100 or 500 rounds of ammo. Cost of transportation is \$3. Sign up by June 3, places are limited to 15.

Family Child Care

687-1180

Want a profitable home-based career?

Providers are needed to provide care for the following: evenings, weekends, swing shift workers, infants, special needs and mildly ill children. The Air Force is now offering a subsidy for providers who are willing to meet these critical needs. Providers who hold a standard license are subsidized \$125 a week per qualifying child. Providers with chronic health problems are accepted.

Family child care orientation class

Receive training to become a family child care provider 8 a.m.-4 p.m. June 13-17. Providers with chronic health problems are accepted. Pick up a registration package from the family child care office by June 8.

Veterinary Clinic

687-2667

Heartworm testing

Warm weather brings a higher risk of dogs contracting heartworm disease. Be sure to have dogs tested yearly for heartworm and keep them on a heartworm preventative, such as Heartguard or Interceptor, year round. If any doses have been missed please call the vet clinic to schedule a heartworm test. Open Monday, Wednesday, Friday 9 a.m.-3:30 p.m. and Tuesday and Thursday 8:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m.